United Nations A/55/7/Add.6

General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 December 2000

Original: English

Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 117
Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001

Revised estimates in respect of matters of which the Security Council is seized

Seventh report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/55/30) on estimates in respect of five political missions of which the Security Council is seized: the United Nations Political Office in Bougainville, the United Nations Office in Burundi, United Nations assistance to the Facilitator of the Burundi peace process, the Adviser of the Secretary-General for Special Assignments in Africa and the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Cyprus. During its consideration of the matter, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information.

2. The Advisory Committee notes that the report of the Secretary-General is being submitted in the context of actions taken by the Security Council regarding good offices, preventive diplomacy and post-conflict peace-building missions. These actions have been taken on the basis of requests from Governments and/or recommendations of the Secretary-General.

3. As indicated in paragraph 28 of the report, the total cost of the activities of the five missions described therein is estimated at $4,162,500. The estimate is based mainly on performance in 2000.

4. The Advisory Committee notes that the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session (A/C.5/54/39) included eight special political missions at an estimated cost of $9,964,500. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that a number of the special political missions that had been included in the previous report of the Secretary-General had been provided for in the revised estimates for the biennium 2000-2001 contained in the first performance report of the Secretary-General on the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (A/55/645 and Corr.1 and Add.1). The report of the Committee on the first performance report contains additional information in this respect (see A/55/7/Add.5, annex IV). The Committee was informed that the missions covered in the report under consideration were those on which the Security Council had not yet taken a decision as of the time of the issuance of the first performance report. Upon request, the Committee was provided with detailed information on all of the special political missions covered in the report under consideration, as well as in the first performance report, including duration and estimated costs (see annex).

5. The Advisory Committee notes, as indicated in table 2 and annex II.B, paragraph 1, of document A/C.5/55/30, that an additional Field Service post is requested for the United Nations Office in Burundi. This is the only request for additional staff contained in

00-79809 (E) 141200

the report. The Committee was informed that other increases in the estimates for international and local staff in a number of the missions relate to the use of lower vacancy rates for 2001. This is the case, for example, with the United Nations Office in Burundi where, for 2000, the vacancy factor used was 15 per cent. As indicated in annex II.B, paragraph 1, of the report, a vacancy factor of 5 per cent was used for the estimates for 2001. The Committee was informed that, for the United Nations Political Office in Bougainville, additional requirements related mainly to the fact that no vacancies were anticipated and to additional requirements for travel of staff between New York and Bougainville and travel within the mission area. With regard to the Adviser of the Secretary-General for Special Assignments in Africa, the Advisory Committee was informed that additional requirements for international and local staff reflected the fact that advisory services had begun in February 2000. The figures for 2001 thus represent the full cost of the mission.

6. The Advisory Committee was also informed that the difference in the estimated requirements for 2000 ($530,400) and 2001 ($45,300) under transport operations for the United Nations Office in Burundi was due to costs of non-recurrent items purchased in 2000.

7. The Advisory Committee notes the statement in paragraph 30 of the report that "as all resources under the provision for special political missions have been earmarked as of this date, the established procedures under General Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986 will be operative, and thus the financing for these activities would require an additional appropriation." Accordingly, the Committee recommends an additional appropriation of $4,162,500 under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.[1]

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/54/Rev.1).

Annex

Special political missions with a mandate beyond 31 December 2000

	Duration	*Estimated requirements (Thousands of United States dollars)*
A. *Continuing mandate with corresponding appropriation (A/C.5/54/39)*		
1. United Nations Political Office for Somalia	1 January 2000-31 December 2001	1 776.8
B. *Requirements reported in the first performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (para. 44 and annexes III and IV of A/55/645)*		
1. United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Liberia	1 January-31 December 2001	2 042.5
2. United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Central African Republic	15 February-31 December 2001	2 726.3
3. United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Guinea-Bissau	1 April-31 December 2001	1 906.6
4. United Nations Office in Angola	16 October 2000-31 December 2001	8 432.7
5. Special Envoy of the Secretary-General in Africa	1 January-31 December 2001	118.3
6. Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region	1 January-31 December 2001	1 843.0
Total (to be charged against the provision for special political missions of $90,387,200)		**17 069.4**
C. *Requirements contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates in respect of matters of which the Security Council is seized (A/C.5/55/30)*		
1. United Nations Political Office in Bougainville	1 January-31 December 2001	1 194.3
2. United Nations Office in Burundi	1 January-31 December 2001	2 391.9
3. United Nations assistance to the Facilitator of the Burundi peace process	1 November 2000-31 January 2001	60.6
4. Adviser of the Secretary-General for Special Assignment in Africa	1 January-31 December 2001	480.3
5. Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Cyprus	1 January-30 June 2001	35.4
Total (additional appropriation)		**4 162.5**

United Nations A/55/7/Add.7

General Assembly

Distr.: General
20 December 2000

Original: English

Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 117
Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001

Construction of additional conference facilities at Bangkok and Addis Ababa

Eighth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/55/493) on the construction of conference facilities at Addis Ababa, submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 39/236 of 18 December 1984.

2. The Advisory Committee recalled that in his report of 4 October 1999 (A/54/431), the Secretary-General had informed the General Assembly about the final residual activities relating to installation of the telecommunication system at the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). As part of the agreement reached with the contractor in 1998 on that remaining issue, the contractor was to ship some minor equipment related to the uninterrupted power supply system and the amount of US$ 52,266.08 had been retained, to be released upon receipt of the equipment by ECA.

3. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 4 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/55/493) that after delivery of the remaining equipment in 2000, the certificate of completion for the installation of the telecommunications system was issued to the contractor on 6 June 2000 and the amount retained from the final payment was released. The Committee also notes from the report that all other pending payments to the contractor relating to the telecommunications system were finalized and processed and that on 30 June 2000, the project was closed and capitalized in the books of the Organization.

4. As indicated in paragraph 5 of the report of the Secretary-General, the amount of $115,228,494 had been authorized by the General Assembly for the construction of conference facilities. The Advisory Committee notes from the same paragraph that, as at 30 June 2000, when the project was closed and capitalized, total final disbursements amounted to $114,937,567, leaving an uncommitted balance of $290,927 in the construction-in-progress account.

00-80762 (E) 201200

5. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 6 and annex II to the report of the Secretary-General that the unaudited financial statement of the construction-in-progress account reflects a balance of $7,702,600, following the completion of the construction projects at Nairobi, Bangkok and Addis Ababa ($2,880,000) and accumulated bank interest ($4,822,600).

6. The Advisory Committee also notes from paragraph 7 of the report of the Secretary-General that possible alternatives for the utilization of the balance of $7,702,600 are under review, including the compelling need for further upgrading of the facilities of the United Nations Office at Nairobi and of ECA. The Advisory Committee was informed that the Secretary-General intends to submit proposals to the General Assembly in respect of United Nations facilities at Nairobi and Addis Ababa in April/May 2001, in accordance with the procedure established by the Assembly in its resolution 37/237 of 21 December 1982.

7. In paragraph 13 of his report, the Secretary-General requests the General Assembly to take note of the balance of $7,702,600 in the construction-in-progress account and to decide to retain those funds in that account until it considers all related matters. The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the Secretary-General's requests.